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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

Executive Registry

83-1504

Representative Melvin Price  
Chairman, House Committee on Armed Services  
Room 2110, Rayburn House Office Building  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

21 MAR 1983

Dear Representative Price:

During the Director's Worldwide Briefing before your committee on February 16, 1983, the National Intelligence Officer for General Purpose Forces, General Atkeson, outlined certain characteristics and capabilities of the new Soviet T-80 tank about which we now have some doubts. He ascribed to the tank a missile-firing capability for greater accuracy at extended ranges. While we still believe this to be true, it should be noted that technical questions have recently come to light about this, and there is not unanimity of view on the point within the Intelligence Community.

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It should be noted that our information on the T-80 is incomplete and that our assessments remain tentative for the time being. The Director has asked for a comprehensive review of the entire Soviet armor/anti-armor problem by the Intelligence Community this spring.

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Sincerely,

/S/ John N. McMahon

John N. McMahon  
Acting Director

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